

**Nola Peterson**

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**From:** "Tom Bus" <tombus51@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "Citizen" <edit2@prestoncitizen.com>  
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Maybe 30 days of irrigation  
water remain, official says

BY CITIZEN STAFF

"I think for most of the irrigation companies they have 30 days of water left, maybe a little less for the small companies."

That's the "on-the-scenes" assessment of Pete Petersen, water master who watches and works with the Bear River on a daily basis. "It's getting a little drier. We'll try to get to the first of September."

In the meantime, water is being drained from Bear Lake, but it is at such a low level the faucet, as it were, would have to be shut off by mid-August if the flow isn't slowed (see separate article).

"Some people don't believe (there's a water shortage) until it's at the door. But they may have no choice," when water shutoff hits.

Some farmers have tried to adjust their plantings to drier conditions, Petersen said. For example, an earlier developing and maturing corn was chosen by some, that has a 90 vs. 120-day cycle. "Most of the farmers that tried planting that might be a little short on developing."

He said that rain in May has had somewhat of a positive impact. "Four years ago was the worst, compared to what we were used to. If some people hadn't put their head in the sand. They were used to have all (the water) they wanted."

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